

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GDR INCORPORATION OF EAST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 1291

1. WE SHARE USBER'S VIEW OF NEED TO REVIEW OUR THINKING ON POSSIBLE ALLIED REACTION TO ANY SOVIET/EAST GERMAN MOVE TO INCORPORATE EAST BERLIN INTO THE GDR.

2. OUR OWN PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) THERE IS NOT MUCH OF SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE ALLIES COULD DO IF THE SOVIETS/GDR DID INITIATE STEPS TO END THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND EAST GERMANY. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT LEVERS ARE AVAILABLE TO US, ESPECIALLY IN THE BERLIN CONTEXT ITSELF. WE WONDER WHETHER THE USG, AND STILL LESS THE OTHER ALLIES, WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXPEND CAPITAL IN OTHER, NON-BERLIN-RELATED FIELDS (AND IF SO, WHAT THESE MIGHT BE) IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR POINT OF PRINCIPLE ON THE LEGAL
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STATUS OF BERLIN; (B) A FORMAL STATEMENT OF PROTEST TO

THE SOVIETS AFTER THE EVENT WOULD BE ONE REACTION, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT; (C) RE THE IDEA OF MAKING A PREEMPTIVE DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS PRIOR TO ANY GDR MOVE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT IF THE SOVIETS AND GDR HAVE WORKED UP THE MOVE TO BE PART OF THE GDR SILVER ANNIVERSARY, THEN OUR APPROACH IS NOT APT TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT UNLESS IT CARRIES SOME PERSUASIVE DETERRENT. THIS BRINGS US TO THE SUGGESTION TO GIVE BERLIN DEPUTIES VOTING RIGHTS IN THE BUNDESTAG.

3. THE IDEA OF USING BERLIN VOTING RIGHTS AS A COUNTER TO THE SOVIET/GDR MOVE, WHETHER PRE-EMPTIVELY OR AFTER THE FACT, SEEMS QUESTIONABLE TO US. PRESUMABLY WE WILL WANT TO MAINTAIN, FOR OUR OWN REASONS, THE PURITY OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE CITY. GRANTING THE WEST BERLIN DEPUTIES VOTING RIGHTS WOULD PUT OUR POSITION IN QUESTION. IT SEEMS TO US IMPRUDENT TO COUNTER A SOVIET/GDR VIOLATION OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT AND OF THE STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN WITH ACTION TANTAMOUNT TO A VIOLATION OF OUR OWN. THE SOVIETS MIGHT INDEED BE PLEASED TO SEE SUCH ACTION BY US, WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY, IN A SENSE, THEIR OWN DEROGATION OF THE STATUS OF THE CITY AND WEAKEN WHAT IS LEFT OF QUADRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENTS.

4. CONCLUSION AND ACTION REQUESTED. IN SUM, WE SEE LITTLE LEVERAGE IN OUR POSITION ON THIS PARTICULAR BERLIN PROBLEM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS BEFORE BEGINNING ANY CONSULTATIONS ON IT WITH UK AND FRENCH HERE.
HILLENBRAND

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